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A.—(a) Orders have been passed on some of the recommendations. The others are under consideration.

(b) A summary [a] of the orders passed is laid on the table.

(c) The Government have no information as to whether the Madras Branch has formulated any programme of propaganda work. In November 1927 the Council applied for a grant of Rs. 500 for propaganda purposes in connexion with venereal diseases. The Government refused the request as they considered that funds for the purpose should be allotted to the propaganda section which has been established in the office of the Director of Public Health.

(d) The Government have no information.

Action taken on the recommendations of the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council.

* 1037-B Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to lay on the table a report of the action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council for dealing with the problem of venereal diseases in Madras?

A.—A summary of the orders passed by the Government has been laid on the table in answer to question No. 1037-A.

Distribution and price of quinine.

* 1038-A Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how much quinine has been distributed or is to be distributed in the year 1928–29, and in which taluks, and through which agencies;

(b) why there has been so much delay in carrying out the projected measure;

(c) at what price Government quinine is sold;

(d) what the market price of quinine of corresponding kind is, and if it is less than that of the Government quinine, how can the difference be accounted for;

(e) whether the Government quinine sold is issued by the Government of India or the Local Government, from which depot, and to which Government are the sale-proceeds credited; and

(f) what profit was made from such sale-proceeds in the years 1926–27 and 1927–28?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clauses (c) and (d) of question No. 106.

(b) The Superintendent, Government Press, had to make special covers, for making the pill packets and the first supply of 25,000 covers was made to the Superintendent of Prisons on 12th September 1928; the first instalment of supply of quinine packets to the Director of Public Health for distribution was made on 29th September 1928 and the distribution was started on 15th October 1928.

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 130–131 infra.

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(c) Rs. 18 per lb. is the lowest wholesale price of quinine sulphate.

(d) The wholesale market price per lb. of quinine in London is Rs. 18. At Calcutta the wholesale market price is about Rs. 18 per lb. The retail price at which quinine is sold by Chemists in India ranges from Rs. 24 to Rs. 32 per lb.

(e) The quinine is issued by the Local Government through the agency of the Madras Penitentiary and the sale-proceeds are credited to the Local Government.

(f) The net profits made by the sale of quinine in bulk and pice packets during 1926–27 and 1927–28 were Rs. 94,723 and 64,119 respectively.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know why the Government do not reduce the price of quinine sold ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The matter is receiving the attention of the Government."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" How long will the Government consider this question, Sir ? They have been considering it for the last three years."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is furnishing information."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am asking what time they will take to come to a decision on this matter ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is admissible."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot give a definite answer. I am sure the Government are not intentionally or unnecessarily delaying it."

Free distribution of quinine in malarial tracts in South Kanara.

* 1038-B Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer to question No. 423, answered on the 9th October 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ascertained whether there are other taluks and other parts of the South Kanara district than the villages mentioned in the Karkal and Uppinangadi taluks which are afflicted with malaria and if so, what they are ; and

(b) whether Government have received complaints that the orders of Government regarding free distribution of quinine have not been carried out and if they have not been carried out, why ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to item (12) on page 220 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, dated 9th October 1928. The Government have asked the Special Malaria Officer to carry out malaria investigation in the Puttur taluk and if necessary to extend the investigation to the other taluks in the South Kanara district.

(b) No complaints have been received. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1038-A.